

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

NOTICE TO THE BAR

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Bar of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut that the District Judges are considering amendments to Local Civil Rule 83.2(g). If adopted the adopted, the proposed amended Local Civil Rule 83.2(g) will read as follows:

(g) Mental Disability and Incapacity

1. In the event an attorney is by a Court of competent jurisdiction (1) declared to be incompetent of managing his or her affairs or (2) committed involuntarily to a mental hospital for drug dependency, mental illness, or the addictive or excessive use of alcohol, the Court shall issue an order to show cause, requiring the attorney to show cause why he or she should not be suspended immediately from practicing law in this Court. A copy of such order shall be served, in such manner as the Court shall direct, upon such attorney, his conservator if any, and the director of any institution in which he or she may reside. If, upon proof of fact of incapacity to engage in the practice of law, the Court concludes that the attorney is incapacitated from continuing to practice law, it shall enter an order suspending him or her on the ground of such disability until further order of the Court.
2. Whenever the Grievance Committee shall have reason to believe that an attorney is incapacitated from practicing in this Court by reason of mental infirmity or illness or because of drug dependency or addiction to alcohol, it shall file a presentment in accordance with paragraph (d) of this Rule 3. Whenever a Judge of this Court has reason to believe that an attorney is similarly incapacitated or otherwise impaired, the Judge may refer the matter to the Grievance Committee for the formulation of such recommendation as may be appropriate, including the initiation of a presentment or such other orders as it deems appropriate. The Grievance Committee may take or direct such action as it deems necessary or proper in order to determine whether such attorney is incapacitated or otherwise impaired, including examination of the attorney by such qualified medical expert or experts as the Grievance Committee shall designated. If, upon due consideration of the matter, the Court concludes that the attorney is incapacitated or otherwise impaired from continuing to practice law, it shall enter an order suspending him or her on the ground of such disability for until further order of the Court.

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Any member of the bar wishing to comment on the proposed changes to Local Civil Rule 83.2(g), may do so in writing to the Honorable Robert N. Chatigny, Chief United States District Judge, U. S. District Court, 450 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103, on or before July 1, 2003. It is anticipated that, if adopted, the proposed Rule shall be effective as of August 1, 2003.

KEVIN F. ROWE
CLERK OF COURT